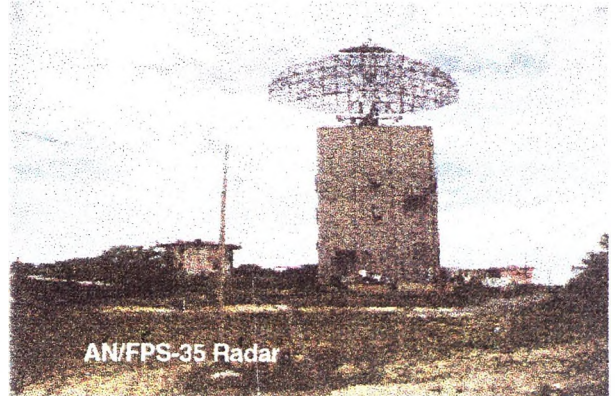


Camp Hero Summary

1942 Although planning and limited construction may have begun as early as 1940, Camp Hero was first activated in 1942 as part of the Eastern Defense Shield, specifically, as a component of the Harbor Defenses of Long Island Sound (HDLIS). HDLIS was a network of coastal gun emplacements and observation posts intended to protect the industrial cities of southern Connecticut, New Jersey and the Metropolitan New York City area during World War II. Primary defenses at the 167 acre Camp Hero site were Battery 112, completed in June of 1943, and Battery 113 (Battery Dunn), completed in January of 1944. Each contained two casemated 16" naval guns in massive, poured-concrete, earth-covered bunkers overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The huge 16-inch guns were supplemented by the two six-inch guns of Battery 216, located to the east along the south shore bluffs. Although smaller, the armored 6-inch emplacements were free-standing, rather than within their adjacent bunker, and had a greater arc of fire than the larger 16-inch guns. Numerous structures supported this installation, including observation and communications facilities, housing, administration and recreation buildings, maintenance and sanitation facilities, all deceptively designed to appear as a small coastal village to enemy reconnaissance .



AN/FPS-35 Radar

1947 Camp Hero is placed on inactive status.

1948 World War II vintage AN/TPS-1B radar units are deployed at Camp Hero as one of three early warning radar sites in the northeast. This installation was part of the "Lashup" system, a hastily-assembled, nationwide system placed in service while plans for a permanent radar defense system were being developed.

1949 Camp Hero is declared surplus by the army; demilitarization and scrap removal of the batteries began.



Fire Control Station

1951 The U.S. Air Force 773rd Control & Warning Squadron occupied the former Camp Hero, now designated Montauk Air Force Station, as a component the United State's first permanent radar defense network. The U.S. Army shares use of the facility for Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA) training.

1952 New AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-5 radar units installed.

1955-1956 AN/FPS-8 medium range radar deployed, later upgraded to AN/GPS-3.

1957 Montauk is one of the first sites for installation of new AN/FPS-20 radar.

1958 The Montauk installation is integrated into the nationwide Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) air defense network. with data fed to the SAGE direction center at McGuire AFB, New Jersey.

1960 The first production model of the AN/FPS-35 radar is installed and activated in December of the year. This technologically advanced, long-range radar unit is taken off full-time use in early 1961 due to interference caused to local radio and television reception. The radar returned to service in 1962 and continued in operation until 1981.

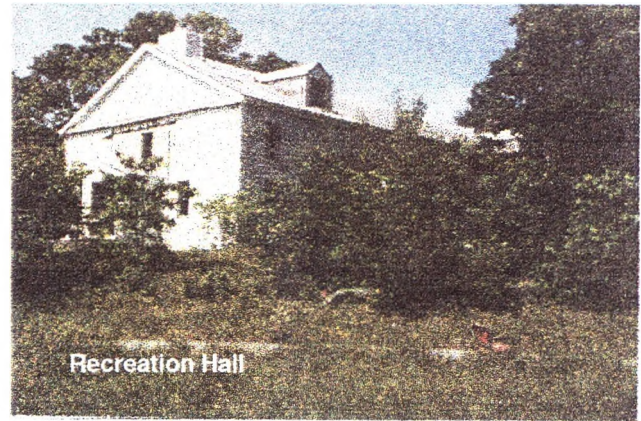
1963-1965 Joint Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration operation of the facility to provide radar data for military and civil aviation use.

1981 The 773rd Radar Squadron is deactivated and all radar units removed from service

1982 119 acres of the former Camp Hero are deeded to the State of New York by the Department of Defense; an additional 19 acres are transferred later that year.

1983 The General Services Administration agreed to transfer 27 residences on 30 acres of land adjacent to Montauk Highway to the Town of East Hampton, to be sold as moderate-income housing.

1984 The National Park Service transferred 278 acres of surplus land at the former Camp Hero/Montauk AFS to the State of New York through the Federal Lands to Parks program, completing the transfer of 415 acres to New York State.



State/National Register Status

The OPRHP has determined that the former Artillery Fire Control Station, Recreation Hall and Bunkers meet the criteria for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Based on information received since the initial evaluation, the AN/FPS-35 radar tower and antenna also appear SR/NR eligible. A nomination to the State and National Registers is being prepared for review by the State Board for Historic Preservation at their September 2001 meeting.

Sources: the above information was gathered from the following sources.

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